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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112722

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
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1. COMMERCE IS ATTEMPTING TO SECURE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS A AND B SUBMITTED BY FRG DEL. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS C AND D, US DEL MAY MAKE USE OF FOLLOWING IN HIS REPLY:

A. KAMA PLANT WILL BUILD 3-AXLE TRUCKS OF THREE BASIC TYPES: TRUCK WITH STANDARD STAKE AND PLATFORM BODY WHICH CAN PULL TRAILER, WITH COMBINED CAPACITY OF 16 TONS; TRUCK TRACTOR FOR PULLING SEMITRAILER OF UP TO 20 TONS; DUMP TRUCK WITH CAPACITY OF 7 TONS.

B. TRUCKS OF THIS TYPE WILL FILL IMPORTANT ECONOMIC NEEDS IN USSR: RELIEF OF SOVIET RAILROADS FROM SHORT-DISTANCE, INTERCITY FREIGHT HAULING; FARM TO CITY TRANSPORT OF GRAIN AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL CROPS; DUMP MODEL URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR HEAVY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

C. USSR HAS PRESSING NEED FOR TRUCKS LARGER THAN THOSE IN PRESENT CIVIL INVENTORY. AVERAGE CARRYING CAPACITY IS NOW 4 TONS AND MOST OF 500,000-600,000 TRUCKS BUILT EACH YEAR
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ARE IN THIS RANGE. ALSO, 3-AXLE TRUCKS NOW PRODUCED

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(KRAZ-258) ARE ADAPTATIONS OF MILITARY VEHICLES WITH AXLE

LOAD OF 10 TONS. MOST OF SOVIET HIGHWAY SYSTEM LIMITS AXLE LOAD TO 6 TONS. TRUCKS PRODUCED AT KAMA WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL OVER ENTIRE ROAD SYSTEM.

D. KAMA TRUCKS ARE NOT TACTICAL MILITARY VEHICLES WITH CROSS-COUNTRY CAPABILITY. SOME MAY ULTIMATELY BE OUT-FITTED WITH FRONT WHEEL DRIVE FOR MUDDY OR ICY ENVIRON-MENT. HOWEVER, TRUCKS WILL NOT BE EQUIPPED FOR DEEP-FORDING OR HAVE OTHER FEATURES TYPICAL OF MILITARY MODELS.

E. USSR MILITARY FORCES HOLD ONLY ABOUT 4 PERCENT OF COUNTRY'S TRUCK INVENTORY. IN VIEW OF KNOWN CIVIL NEEDS AND INAPPROPRIATENESS OF KAMA DESIGN TO MILITARY PURPOSES, WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF DIVERSION.

2. US DEL MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT COCOM HAS APPROVED SEVERAL EXPORTS TO KAMA WITHOUT CIVIL APPLICATION BEING QUESTIONED, E.G. COCOM DOC EA (75)23, COCOM DOC (74)956 AND EXPORTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR OTHER TRUCK FACTORIES IN USSR. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF EVIDENCE FRG MAY HAVE THAT KAMA PLANTS WILL BE USED FOR STRATEGIC PRODUCTION.

3. FYI ONLY: POSSIBLY FRG UNABLE TO FORGET OUR REJECTION IN 1970 OF US LICENSES FOR SIEMENS 400/35 COMPUTER AND UNIVAC 9400 SUBMITTED TO COCOM BY FRG FOR TATRA PLANT AT KOPROVICE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS PLANT WAS KNOWN TO BE MAJOR PRODUCER OF MILITARY VEHICLES FOR CZECH ARMY, WHICH ALSO EXPORTED TO WARSAW PACT AND CUBA. IT PRODUCED IN ADDITION ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, PRIME MOVERS FOR TOWING MISSILES AND ARTILLERY AND WAS BELIEVED TO PRODUCE MISSILE CARRIER-LAUNCHER VEHICLES AND TANK ENGINES. KISSINGER

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